GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1616
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
INDO-MYANMAR TIES
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to improve relations with Myanmar during the last three years;

(b) the details thereof ;

(c) whether there is a need for greater economic cooperation with Myanmar; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in that regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (d) Government have strengthened friendly relations with Myanmar through a policy of good neighbourly and constructive engagement. Measures adopted have included the establishment of institutional mechanisms for border management, cross-border projects on the basis of mutual benefit and the enhancement of economic, technical and cultural cooperation.

Focus areas include agriculture, human resource development, education, science and technology, development of infrastructural links to facilitate trade and tourism, narcotics control and border management. An MOU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture &Allied Sectors was signed in April 1998; an Agreement on co-operation in the fields of Science & Technology was signed in June 1999. Myanmar is availing of training facilities in India in several fields including Information Technology. India has provided a line of credit for US$ 10 million, which Myanmar has used for rolling stock and other industrial equipment. Another agreement to extend a second credit line of US$ 15 million was signed in November, 2000. India and Myanmar have also signed an Agreement on Cultural Cooperation on January 25, 2001. An MOU on maintenance of the Tamu-Kalemyo roadwas signed on 25th May, 2001 between the Government of India and the Government of the Union of Myanmar whereby the GOI will maintain the road for next 6 years.

Government are committed to greater economic cooperation with Myanmar on the basis of mutual benefit.